



Kentucky
Commission
on the Deaf
and Hard
of Hearing

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*As long as we stay
focused on the
improvement of
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kids who are deaf
and hard of
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change will happen!*

”

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Communicator

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

For the past year, the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Facilities Planning Committee (FPC) has been meeting most often on a weekly basis. It has been a long road to travel, but as a result of the many hours, much effort and commitment of the FPC, great new changes are coming for the KSD.

The Facilities Planning Committee was formed as a result of the Implementation Plan presented to the Kentucky Board of Education by the Department of Education. The process began in January 2004 with the Committee inviting local and associated groups and organizations to make presentations to the committee on their possible interests in the use of facilities and/or land on the KSD campus. After several weeks of hearing and documenting those interests, the FPC began to focus on an in depth report on the actual space and operation of the KSD campus. This report included the following areas:

- Space allocation and Resource Review which outlined existing spaces on campus and provided a “broad-brush” review of the percentage of occupancy of each building
- Annual Building Operational Costs which reviewed each building on campus and calculated an aggregated annual cost for Utilities, Maintenance, Custodial and Insurance Costs
- Building Space Program which represented the “ideal” spaces that

would be required to accommodate the Implementation Plan

- Campus Plan/Operating Expenses which provided a pictorial view of the campus and graphically shows the aggregated annual cost for Utilities, Maintenance, Custodial and Insurance Costs
- Ideal Program and Space “Over-Lay” which selected the best buildings on the KSD campus to utilize for future development and compares these buildings with the spaces noted in the Building Space Program to help determine the direction of the planning effort
- Planning Schemes which took the information gleaned from the “Ideal Program” and developed several proposed schemes which address best practice planning ideas such as; security, recognizable campus entrance, combining of like facilities and separation of different facilities, levels of privacy and campus containment

After much analysis, comparison and research on the above report, the FPC then focused on possible schemes of the campus. Each scheme was explained, discussed and edited based on input from the FPC members as well as audience members.

Nearing the end of this phase of the FPC process, a town hall meeting was held in Danville on November 10, 2004 with an impressive showing of 200 community members and individuals with an interest in space utilization on the whole campus. Each of the approximate twenty comments were heard, noted and discussed by FPC members at the last FPC meeting.

We are one step closer to having a state of the art facility for the deaf and hard of hearing. The Kentucky Board of Education

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*The deadline to submit
information and articles for
the March 2005 edition of
the Communicator is February
2005. All materials provided
through KCDHH are available in
accessible format upon request.*

Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

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(KBE) was very receptive to the KSD and KSB Facilities Planning Committees' recommendation for a new campus plan at Kentucky School for the Deaf. The plan was unanimously accepted by the KBE allowing for flexibility for further committee work and discussion regarding the KSD facilities that fall outside of the designated area for development. The Facilities Planning Committee indicated a need for developing strong partnerships with Boyle County, the City of Danville and private entities when discussing Kentucky School for the Deaf's excess land ensuring that this land will be used to benefit deaf and hard of hearing students and adults.



After the presentation, Gene Wilhoit, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education stated, "We will aggressively push

legislative funding to support the KSD and KSB facilities plan."

I personally want to applaud the Danville and KSD community for their show of support and commitment to the Kentucky School for the Deaf, not only at the impressive showing at the town hall meeting but throughout the entire process. Without the input and feedback from the KSD and Danville community, progress such has been made so far would never have been possible. Also I am very pleased to see the commitment to KSD from the State Board of Education and the Department of Education. The FPC process is an unprecedented process and I feel will become a model process for other states in the future. It is most important to remember that our deaf and hard of hearing kid's education is at stake here. As long as we stay focused on the improvement of education for our kids who are deaf and hard of hearing, positive change *will* happen! Please continue to send me your feedback and input. Although this first phase is coming to an end, there is still a long way to go!

Bobbie Beth

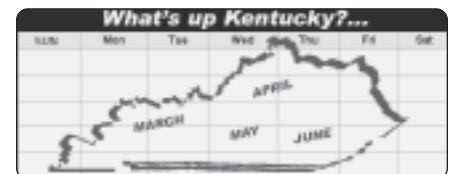
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What's Up Kentucky?

We are starting a calendar on our website. Please let us know of any deaf or hard of hearing related events coming up in your area from now until July 2005. The events can be at schools, churches, social gatherings, etc. Let us hear from you!



CapTel Availability in Kentucky

Kentucky's Relay Service provider, Hamilton Telecommunications, added service in Kentucky for CapTel telephones effective October 1, 2004. Since then KCDHH Staff has worked with the Finance Cabinet to add the device to the list of equipment distributed by the TDD Distribution Program. Once the contract is approved by the state Finance Department, CapTel telephones will be distributed to individuals who have been approved through our program. It is anticipated that the process will be completed by mid December, *with approved individuals receiving equipment in January.*

Kentucky is allotted a limited number of CapTel's for distribution each month, which must serve those applying through

KCN, applicants who are authorized to receive the device from their Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, and individuals who wish to purchase the device privately. Individuals not applying through the Distribution program must contact the Public Service Commission and request authorization to purchase the CapTel. The allotment limit is intended to ensure that the CapTel captioning service is not overburdened. Once Kentucky can better determine the impact on Kentucky's Relay Service and Distribution program, the allotment may be increased.

If you are active or retired military personnel, an active or retired Federal employee, or member of a recognized Native American tribe, you CAN receive a CapTel

telephone immediately through a Federal program funded by Sprint. CapTel service through this program is available in all 50 states and is funded by Federal funds rather than state allocations. To apply online go to www.captionedtelephone.com/availability/FRS and download the appropriate form, or contact Randy Murbach, Manager of the Federal CapTel program, at randy.g.murbach@mail.sprint.com or by phone at 800-720-3246.

If you believe CapTel might serve your needs as a deaf or hard of hearing person, please contact us for an application. Interested individuals can read more about the device at <http://www.captionedtelephone.com/about-captel.phtml>.



A Videoconference Glimpse

Has videoconferencing influenced your life or the way you communicate today? It is amazing how a piece of equipment attached to either a computer or television can drastically change the way we communicate, network and educate ourselves and others. Surely some of you are able to remember the days where there was NO telephone, and then suddenly voices were heard over a long cable.

Later text was transmitted in the same manner and that was thought to be the end all to technology! With even more advances in technology now the person we wish to communicate with can be seen "live" while we are communicating

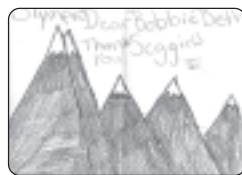
with them. Soon "reach out and touch someone" will be a reality.

The ability to videoconference has now reached a wide range of individuals from senior citizens to youth. Heidi Givens, a teacher from the Country Heights Elementary School in Owensboro, uses videoconferencing as an educational tool to expose her young deaf and hard of hearing students to today's ever advancing technology. Ms. Givens also knows the importance of role models for her students and recently "reached out" to Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins asking her to fill that role for her students. In

June, Dr. Scoggins was a participant in the Athens 2004 Torch Relay, the first truly global Olympic Torch Relay, and carried the torch through a section of St. Louis. Ms. Givens wanted her students to have an opportunity to ask Bobbie Beth about her Athens 2004 Torch Relay experience, but the distance of her school from the KCDHH office in Frankfort and schedules of staff served as a barrier. However, Ms. Givens eliminated that barrier by calling KCDHH and asking for a

videoconference meeting. This allowed students to remain in their classroom in Owensboro while interviewing Dr. Scoggins in her office at KCDHH. Through their high-speed connection and a web cam, the students interviewed Bobbie Beth, asking about the 2004 Olympic Torch Relay experience, her background as a Deaf Olympian and her own deafness. Of course the natural curiosity of young minds led to other questions such as, "do you have a dog" and "what's your favorite color?" When Dr. Scoggins responded that her favorite color was red, suddenly several of the students decided that red was their favorite color as well! This clearly shows how young kids desperately need a positive deaf role model to emulate.

These students have been afforded a world of education through videoconferencing. Several of the students sent Dr. Scoggins thank you notes for the interview, as you see within this article, expressing their gratitude and impression of the experience. Who knows where technology will lead us next!



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An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet

